

# HEMMED IN BY FLAMES

## 175 WOMEN AND GIRLS

### MEET HORRIBLE DEATH

#### Fire on Top Floors of New York Building Occupied as Factory Also Results in Injury to Hundred Others.

#### EMPLOYEES JUMP FROM WINDOWS TO STREET AND CERTAIN DEATH

#### Iron Door, Opening Inwardly, Placed at Head of Ninth Floor Stairway, Believed to Have Added Score to the Number of Dead—Negligence Given as Cause of Calamity.

#### Fearful Chapter in City's History.

"The building was not adequately equipped with fire escapes, and this same scene is likely to be repeated tomorrow or any other day in the big office and loft buildings in this city. The lives of the employees of these big buildings are not properly safeguarded, and if the law does not provide for their protection the law should be changed. This is the most frightful experience in my career as a fireman. It is a fearful chapter in the city's history."—Fire Chief Croker.

NEW YORK, March 25.—A fire that spread like a spark in a powder train trapped 2,000 employees of the Triangle Waist Company on the eighth, ninth and tenth floors of the ten-story loft building at Washington place and Greene street, at 5 o'clock this afternoon.

More than 175 lives were lost. The police figures at midnight were 150 dead and 100 injured. The dead are chiefly women and young girls, some of them pitifully young to take up the burden of wage earners and some of them old women that an unkind fate kept in the battle for daily bread when their years should have won them a peaceful close of life.

The cause of this frightful calamity—official neglect.

Housing during the busy hours of the day thousands of employees of this big and high-reaching building was equipped with but one narrow iron fire escape, and that in the rear and leading into an almost blind court.

As though this neglect and absolute disregard for human life were not enough, a criminal trap placed as a warning to the employees of the Triangle company that they were constantly under suspicion of theft added scores to the roll of death.

Employees in a Trap.

An iron door, opening inwardly, had been placed at the head of the stairway on the ninth floor by the Triangle company. When explosive matter was being stored on the ninth floor, where 1,500 women were employed, this door was closed, and no one could leave the room without a superficial search. The women being required to open their coats and cloaks and expose the contents of their handbags as they passed the door. The women were not permitted to leave until they had been searched. The entire force had to undergo this scrutiny at the close of the working day.

Today, when the alarm was given, there was a mad rush for the stairway. The iron door shutting off the stairway was closed as easily by the press of being searched as by the press of being searched. The women were not permitted to leave until they had been searched. The entire force had to undergo this scrutiny at the close of the working day.

Fire Chief Croker and his men did their best, but were practically helpless against the explosive absence of safeguards over human life. They found the side-walks littered with the dead when they arrived and women and men, hopelessly cut off from escape and with the fire searing their bodies, flinging themselves headlong from the windows.

Chief Croker Places Blame.

Croker was not slow to fix the blame. He drew and his law firm set, he looked at the heaps of bodies about where he stood and declared that the lack of outside fire escapes was responsible for the calamity.

"I have predicted and tried to avoid just such a scene as this," he declared. "The building was not adequately equipped with fire escapes, and this scene is likely to be repeated tomorrow or any other day in the big office and loft buildings in this city. The lives of the employees of these big buildings are not properly safeguarded, and if the law does not provide for their protection the law should be changed. This is the most frightful experience in my career as a fireman. It is a fearful chapter in the city's history."—Fire Chief Croker.

The employees of the Triangle company

# SEÑOR DE LA BARRA BECOMES PREMIER

## Chosen by President Diaz to Be Head of the New Mexican Cabinet.

### BELIEVED ALL FACTIONS WILL APPROVE CHOICE

#### Appointment Regarded as a Master Stroke of Policy.

#### AMBASSADOR LEAVES TODAY

#### Had Preferred to Remain in Washington—Has No Idea Who His Successor Will Be.

Francisco de la Barra, Mexican ambassador to the United States, was yesterday named minister of foreign relations of the Mexican cabinet by President Diaz. Señor de la Barra has telegraphed to Mexico City his acceptance of the portfolio.

Immediately after telegraphing his acceptance to Mexico City, Señor de la Barra went to the White House and informed President Taft. The President expressed pleasure at the ambassador's appointment and congratulated him warmly. As the ambassador had decided to leave here today for Mexico City, the President bade him farewell, giving him a picture of himself, autographed with a salutation of personal regard.

Señor de la Barra also called upon Secretary of State Knox and informed him of the appointment. Mr. Knox congratulated the ambassador and bade him good-speed.

The new minister of foreign relations in making the public announcement of his appointment declared he did not know whether any other members of the new cabinet had been decided upon.

Appointment Not Unexpected.

The fact that Ambassador de la Barra was a likely candidate for the post of minister of foreign relations had been known by friends in Washington for some time. The ambassador, however, always had expressed a desire that publicity should not be given to such information. His reason was that, although he was a native of his country, he was not accepted to the post if it were offered to him, he really preferred to remain in Washington, where in the position of ambassador he might continue in the work of cementing the friendly relations between Mexico and the United States.

In discussing privately his right with a reporter the probability of his appointment as minister of foreign relations, the ambassador declared the fact that his name had been mentioned prominently by supporters of both the federal government and the revolutionary movement. He said he hoped, however, President Diaz might choose the honor of premier in his cabinet on some one else, but that if the post were offered to him he would feel it his duty to accept.

Notified Last Night.

A message reached the ambassador at 10 o'clock last night from Señor Croel, who resigned Friday as minister of foreign relations, in which the latter announced to Señor de la Barra that it was President Diaz's wish that he accept the post of minister of foreign relations to which he had been named.

The ambassador wired his acceptance of the post and immediately called on President Taft.

"My meeting with President Taft and later with Secretary of State Knox and Señor Croel, was most cordial. They expressed the hope that Mexico would enter upon an era of peace, and I said good-bye to the latter with appreciation of the friendliness of the United States for Mexico."

"As for the position in the cabinet, I felt it my duty to accept, because I thought conditions in Mexico made it urgent. I feel deeply the honor that has been bestowed upon me. I will start for Mexico City tomorrow."

The ambassador declared he had not the slightest idea who would succeed him in his post at Washington. Asked if he thought Señor Croel, who once was the Mexican ambassador here, might return, he answered that he had absolutely no information upon the subject.

Acceptable to All Factions.

Señor de la Barra has not been identified with any particular political party in Mexico and the significance of his appointment is that it is confidently expected to meet with the hearty approval of all factions in that country. He has devoted himself chiefly to the foreign relations of Mexico, having been ambassador to various countries.

When it became known that Señor Croel would resign the ministry of foreign relations those conversant with Mexican affairs without hesitation declared that the appointment of Señor de la Barra as the most likely successor because of his familiarity with the country's foreign affairs and his long and successful career in international law and was for many years a professor in jurisprudence and logic at the University of Mexico.

(Continued on Third Page.)



"AND THE FOWLS OF THE AIR CAME AND DEVoured IT UP."

# SEVERELY CRITICISES THE ANTI-TRUST LAW

## Judge Grosscup Believes It Encroaches on Powers of the Judiciary.

NEW YORK, March 25.—Judge Peter S. Grosscup of Chicago criticized the Sherman anti-trust law at the Republican Club today during a discussion of the question of the "encroachment of three co-ordinate branches of the government, one upon the other."

Judge Grosscup thought the Sherman law was typical of the laws that encroach upon powers of the judiciary. He thought that laws should conform to existing conditions.

He went on to say that the Calvinists believed that no matter how good a man was the only way he could escape punishment was by the mercy of the Creator. This was the case with the business man, and particularly the corporation, he said.

Through the mercy of the Department of Justice you may never be prosecuted. The whole power transferred to Washington. It is no longer what will they say at the court in Buffalo, in New York or elsewhere? but what will they say in Washington?

President Schurman's Views.

President J. G. Schurman of Cornell and David Jayne Hill, ambassador of the United States to Germany, also spoke. Dr. Schurman said that the great change that the masses of the people have taken hold of the mercy of government and have selected upon the President as its champion.

"We live in the days of public opinion," he said, "and we are apt to believe that the opinion of the masses is the only one that counts. I think we have developed such a system, though it was not the aim of our founders. We have thought of the evolution that has taken place and adjust ourselves to it."

Ambassador Hill spoke in a similar vein. The ambassador declared he had not the slightest idea who would succeed him in his post at Washington. Asked if he thought Señor Croel, who once was the Mexican ambassador here, might return, he answered that he had absolutely no information upon the subject.

# TWENTY-SIX ARE LOST WHEN SHIP GOES DOWN

## Strong Gale Off Vancouver Island Too Much for Little Wooden Steamer.

VICTORIA, B. C., March 25.—The British Columbia Shipping Company's little wooden steamer Secheit, built for passenger service on an inland lake, turned turtle in a furious gale off Beecher Head, Vancouver Island, late yesterday afternoon, and went down with all on board, twenty-two passengers and a crew of four. Thirteen passengers had landed at Williams Head just before the steamer went out to sea. Most of the passengers were railroad laborers bound for a Canadian Northern construction camp, but a few were residents of Sooke. Among the known dead are Capt. H. V. James, master and part owner; Rev. Mr. Burns, minister of Sooke, and his wife, and John Newton, land surveyor.

Indian Sees Disaster.

An Indian on Beecher bay was the only eye-witness of the disaster. Through him news was sent to Victoria, and the tug William Joffe went to the rescue. After running about the scene of the wreck for hours the tug returned to Victoria and reported that no trace of the Secheit could be found.

Henry Charles, an Indian of Rocky Point, was gathering wood on Beecher bay at 5:30 p.m. yesterday and saw the Secheit go down. A heavy gale was blowing. When the Secheit was three miles off Beecher Head the gale struck her and she leaned over and swung around as though she intended to run across the strait at Fort Crescent on the American side. The craft had hardly turned broadside to the wind, when she righted, then went over and lay on her side.

The Indian watched the steamer ten minutes and at the end of that time the British Columbia Shipping Company's vessel was swallowed up by the sea. The Indian ran to Rocky Point and notified T. Keefe, John H. Jones, Mayor George P. McConney, Peter Slingerland, T. M. Baldwin, Jr., and John A. Flannery. Thomas Coon, a well known farmer, residing near Seagaville, Howard county, died at his home. The immediate cause of death was heart trouble, following an attack of acute rheumatism. The funeral will take place at Emmanuel Church, Rev. A. B. Sites officiating. Interment will be made in the cemetery adjoining the church.

Mrs. Anna Green Dead.

Former Washington Passes Away in Buffalo.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE STAR.

BUFFALO, N. Y., March 25.—Mrs. Anna Green, formerly of Washington, D. C., died here this afternoon of pneumonia at the home of her sister, Mrs. Elizabeth Bryne, 40 Morgan street. Mrs. Green was sixty-seven years old and lived at 712 12th street, Washington, for twenty years. In 1905 she moved to Chicago and later to this city. Three sons survive, all of whom were born in Washington. Burial will be in Buffalo Monday morning.

Fall From Window Ends in Death.

BERKELEY, Cal., March 25.—Thomas Rickard, former mayor of Berkeley, fell from a second-story window in his residence today and was killed. It is supposed that Rickard, who had suffered from heart trouble, stepped to the window for air and lost his balance.

# TRUSKETT TO TESTIFY IN HIS OWN DEFENSE

## Kansas Man on Trial for Murder Alleges Worry Over Oil Leases.

INDEPENDENCE, Kan., March 25.—Attorneys for the defense in the A. A. Truskett murder trial today presented a score of witnesses whose testimony was calculated to prove the contention that the defendant's mind has been affected by worry over his oil business.

When court adjourned tonight not a witness had testified in support of the claim of the attorneys for Truskett that he shot J. D. S. Neely of Lima, Ohio, because he feared his own life was in danger. It is understood that this phase of the defense will be taken up next week.

To Speak in His Own Behalf.

Mr. Truskett, said his attorneys tonight, will probably be called to the stand in his own behalf some time Monday. Although he is past seventy years of age, he is standing the strain of his trial well. Several former employees of Truskett testified to his queer actions. They believed his mind to have been affected. James Winkler, a Caney druggist, told of a man named Shaw, who the witness said, while the employee of the Wichita Pipe Line Company, asserted his intention of getting leases on certain oil lands held by Truskett. According to Winkler, Shaw said he would obtain the lands if he cost him "every dollar he could obtain. Neely was head of this company."

Story of Truskett's Trouble.

The trouble Truskett had about his lease of oil lands owned by Robert Goodman, an Indian and a minor, was told of by several witnesses. According to their stories, the Indian was "kidnaped" by employees of oil companies controlled by Neely and kept away from Truskett until Neely's companies had obtained from Goodman leases to his property which invalidated those held by Truskett. Truskett was said to have lost \$20,000 in this deal, which greatly increased his bitterness toward Neely.

# ASSURES GOOD WILL

## Emperor of Japan Sends Message to President Taft.

### RELATIONS ARE CORDIAL

#### Calls Reports Regarding Impending Trouble False and Wicked.

#### NEW YORK APPRAISER RESIGNS

#### Business Man Will Probably Be Appointed to Succeed Republican Politician.

President Taft's recent conference with Baron Uchida, the Japanese ambassador, has borne excellent results, most gratifying to the administration. The President yesterday received through the Japanese embassy the following cable message from the Emperor of Japan: "To the President of the United States of America: "I was greatly pleased to receive your very kind message conveyed to me through my ambassador in Washington, and I thank you for it. I was already well convinced that you had given no credence to the false and wicked reports regarding Japan, but it was especially a source of profound satisfaction to me to receive from you the assurance that the relations of amity and good understanding between our two countries were never better or more cordial than at this time. I am more happy to be able entirely to reciprocate that assurance."

"MUTSUHITO."

The message from the emperor is the response to the friendly assurances sent him by the President a few days ago, after a conference with Baron Uchida, and Mr. Taft believes that the exchange of cordial feelings has cleared up all the talk about Japan and the United States getting into trouble with each other.

Old-Time Politician Resigns.

George Wanamaker, appraiser of the port of New York, has sent his resignation to President Taft and Secretary MacVane and his successor will soon be selected. Mr. Wanamaker has for years belonged to the regular republican organization in New York, being "one of the boys" and a district leader of prominence. He stood by Roosevelt in the last election, but did so reluctantly. His sympathy has always been with the organization, with which he has worked since the early days of the late Senator Platt.

It is officially stated that Wanamaker's resignation was voluntary, but it has been known for some time that the administration would prefer a business man as appraiser. Wanamaker had never had a business training suitable to the work of appraiser, and the aim of the administration is to put the customs service, internal revenue service, the postal service and all branches of the government under the management of business men. Collector Loeb in New York or of the most satisfactory business administration. The President desires a man of the same stamp for appraiser so that all parts of the customs service may be under the same service into a business institution at all points.

President Taft yesterday received an invitation to attend the anniversary celebration of the 100th birthday of the late Governor of Pennsylvania, at Philadelphia, to be held at an early date. He does not think he can accept the invitation.

# REACHING FOR HAT

## YOUTH IS DROWNED

### Canoe Upsets When Duncan MacRae Tries to Save Friend's Handgear.

#### HIS COMPANIONS FAIL IN EFFORTS TO RESCUE

#### Accident Occurs in Upper Potomac, Opposite Sycamore Island.

#### BODY NOT YET RECOVERED

#### Young Man Was Principal of Public School in Alexandria and a Nephew of Maj. MacRae, U. S. A.

While trying to rescue a companion's hat, Duncan MacRae, twenty-one years old, principal of an Alexandria public school, was drowned when his canoe upset in the upper Potomac, opposite Sycamore Island, yesterday afternoon about 5 o'clock.

Three companions, Reamer Welker Argo, Harold Keats and Robert Jones, attempted to rescue MacRae. Keats put out in a canoe, and Argo and Jones swam out to MacRae, who was trying to swim to shore in his clothing.

The swimmers reached MacRae and gave him their support, but the tide made numb by the icy water, went under, and the current swept him ashore.

Getting a foothold he looked back to see Jones and MacRae still struggling to reach the bank, and Keats, paddling with a piece of board, making efforts to reach them against a swift tide that bore his canoe away from them.

Then Argo saw Jones and MacRae go under and came up again, still fighting shoreward. In a few moments they both went under again. The tide came up, and in a few moments gained the shore. MacRae was seen no more. His body has not been recovered.

Keats had had a ducking a short time before, and he was not a strong swimmer. He was paddling his canoe had upset. He clung to the keel and was rescued by his companions.

Canoe Tips Over.

It was his hat, lost when he was immersed, that MacRae went after. In reaching out from the side of the canoe to get the hat MacRae's canoe overturned in a swift current that turned it over.

MacRae, Jones, Argo and Keats, all young men and members of the Theta Delta chapter of the Phi Kappa Psi fraternity, were on the Potomac, on the street, set out about 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon for a trip on the river.

At the Washington Canoe Club they asked for the use of a canoe owned by a friend. The rules of the club do not permit a canoe to go out in the absence of the owner without express permission, and the quartet were refused the privilege.

Keats suggested that they go up to the camp where he had spent last summer and where he knew that he could find a canoe.

The camp was on the Virginia shore, opposite Sycamore Island. Here the young men found three canoes, but no paddles. Keats got a board, and using it as a paddle started out alone in one of the canoes. Unable to guide his boat skillfully with the improvised paddle, he was swept in the swift current and upset. He clung to the canoe until his companions reached him, and then they paddled with boards found on shore.

Starts After Hat.

A fire was made on the shore for Keats to dry out. Jones and Argo took off their clothes, despite the low temperature, and were planning a dip in the river. Then Keats discovered that his hat was missing, and MacRae took out the canoe to go in search of it, with the fatal result today.

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# AGREEMENT REACHED IN FIREMEN'S STRIKE

## Trouble With White Employees of Western Railroad Settled After Conference.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, March 25.—The strike of the white firemen on the Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Pacific railroad was declared off tonight, after a conference held here tonight by representatives of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers and Horace Baker, general manager of the road.

The agreement holds that employees who went out on strike shall be reinstated to the position they held when they struck. Negro firemen cannot be employed north of Oakdale, Tenn. The pay division of the Erie Railroad, which was agreed to be signed by representatives of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Engineers and Horace Baker, general manager of the road, shall not be exceeded hereafter and negro firemen cannot be assigned to more than one-half of passenger or freight runs.

# VANDALS DYNAMITE

## NEW IRON ORE PLANT

### Erie Railroad Company Loses \$300,000 by Act of Bandits.

#### Ohio.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, March 25.—Unknown vandals tonight dynamited the new iron ore handling plant of the Erie Railroad at North Randall, a suburb of Cleveland. The dynamite was used on the ore bridge of the plant, which was destroyed with an estimated loss of \$300,000. The plant was only recently completed at a cost, it is said, of \$1,000,000, and had been in operation a few days.

There is no clue to the miscreants and General Superintendent H. O. Dunkle of the Erie Railroad is trying to find the men who did the damage. The police are trying to find the men who did the damage. The police are trying to find the men who did the damage.

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# DESTROYED BY FIRE

## Furniture Plant at Thomasville, N. C., Burned; Loss, \$40,000.

THOMASVILLE, N. C., March 25.—The Lambert Furniture Company plant here was destroyed this evening. The flames had gained such headway when discovered that nothing could be saved. The loss is estimated at \$40,000. Insurance, \$30,000. Nearly one hundred people were thrown out of employment. The origin of the fire is unknown.

# WILL CONTEST HUGHES' ELECTION.

## CHARLESTON, W. Va., March 25.—

Rankin Wiley, a democrat, will contest the seat of the fifth West Virginia district, the only republican, according to the returns, who was elected to Congress at the last election. The record in the contest has been prepared and will be filed at Washington next week, according to Wiley's counsel tonight. Wiley asserts that Hughes is not a citizen of the United States.

# WELCOME AWAIT SOUTH.

## NEW YORK, March 25.—Every resident of the "sunny south" who visits New York in the future will find the hotel, string out and a welcoming hand extended to him in the quarters of the Southern Club of New York in the Hotel Schuyler, which were opened tonight.

# FISHING TUGS RESCUED FROM PERIL BY ERIC HARBOR BOAT.

## ERIE, Pa., March 25.—Two fishing tugs of this port, the Valiant and the Saturn, on their way to Ashtabula, were rescued late tonight while three miles off shore where they had become frozen fast in the ice. The ice had already begun to crush the hulls, and the whistle signals of distress summoned the harbor tug Commodore Perry and the fireboat Erie.